

around dysart

Exciting happenings at Dysart Unified School District

September 17, 2008

Dysart High School

Congratulations to the boys and girls swim teams for their excellent performances at their first meet of the season September 9. Although both teams suffered losses to Buckeye, there were many great races. Girls Captain and junior, Ashley Rodriguez, as well as senior Juan Nevarez won individual events. Nevarez, freshman Gabriel Velez, junior Kyler Cross, and the boys 200 freestyle and 200 medley relays all smashed school records.

Dysart Key Club members returned from the 65th Annual Key Club International Convention in Denver, Colorado with awards in every area in which they competed. Dysart Key Club was recognized at the convention as a "Partner in Service" club due to their work with Read & Lead, UNICEF, Children's Miracle Network and March of Dimes.

Dysart Key Club also received the Diamond Level Distinguished Key Club Award. Only 25 of the 6,000 international Key clubs were recognized as Diamond Level Distinguished Clubs. Dysart's club placed fourth overall internationally in single service with their "Salvation Army Christmas Angels" project. Dysart Key Club Member Liz Snider placed first in vocals at the international talent show, singing a song she wrote during the recognition session. The Key Club International Convention hosted 2,000 Key Club members from 28 countries and held intensive workshops, forums and officer training, along with motivational speakers and the opportunity to meet with Key Club members from around the world. While in Denver, Dysart High School's members toured the U.S. Mint, State Capitol, Natural History Museum, Denver Zoo, Aquarium and Planetarium.



Canyon Ridge School

Canyon Ridge School's PTO will host its Second Annual Golf Classic September 20 at Arizona Traditions Golf Club. Funds raised for this event will go toward technology equipment for classrooms. A shotgun start will begin at 7 a.m. for a day filled with golf, contests, drawings, prizes and lunch. For more information, please visit www.canyonridgegolfclassic.com or contact the school directly at (623) 523-8450.

Congratulations to the newly elected student council officers: Josie Lopez, president; Alissa Beutler, vice president; Austin Argust, secretary and Alonzo Redmond, treasurer.

Congratulations to the members of the 2008-2009 girls softball team: Malaika Davis, Edison Thalman, Alyssa Rosenthal, Hannah Cluff, Cynthia Pena, Kylie Strand, Josie Lopez, Kiana Earley, Megan Henige,

Kamrey Sampson, Jessica Garcia, Kelsea Ferentheil, Kaylee Diebold and manager/score keeper Alexis Encarnacion.



Mountain View School

Dysart Unified School District's adaptive physical education program planned a series of bowling trips for the special education classes throughout the district. Mountain View's students had a blast bowling September 5. Laura Matera's and Sue Abba's classes loved practicing the skills they have learned through the adaptive PE program and look forward to the next event.





Laura Matera's and Sue Abba's classes at Mountain View School had a great time bowling September 5.

Sundown Mountain Alternative Program

Sundown Mountain welcomes Marco Malagon, a student teacher from Arizona State University West. He is currently in the Practice Teaching Preparation Program (PTPA) which is designed to ensure that Arizona's future teachers are prepared to meet the challenges of teaching in public education. Malagon will receive his field experience under the guidance of math teacher Christina Arviso while developing lesson plans for algebra II and geometry during the first semester of the 2008-2009 school year. He will gain a vast knowledge of information ranging from instructional teaching techniques to classroom management skills. Once Malagon obtains his teaching certification, he hopes to participate in the Japanese Exchange Teaching Program.

The Sundown Mountain student body participated in Carl Chu's assembly, "On Track to Success," September 2. Students actively listened to this motivational speaker who encouraged them to establish goals and a 100-day plan to attain them. At the age of 19, he published his first book titled, *On Track to Success*, which was used at Arizona State University. Two years later, he published his second book, *A Step in the Right Direction*. Chu graduated from Arizona State University with a degree in Business Management and earned his Masters of Business Administration from the University of South Dakota. Chu currently conducts leadership seminars at high schools, colleges and organizations across the country.

Countryside Elementary School



Countryside Elementary School's music department has started the year with a brand new program: Countryside Howling Strings group. This group, which began with 12 students, is open to kids in second through fourth grade. The students are doing great, learning music, studying violin the Suzuki way, and having fun. Their first concert will take place in November.

Seventh and eighth grade math tutoring will begin September 17. Sessions will be held from 3 to 4:30 p.m., on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Fourth grade students in Mita Desai's art class learned about lines as one of the seven elements of art. Students enjoyed forming various lines with sculptures made of paper strips.



Mrs. Mita Desai helps fourth graders with their paper line projects.

Willow Canyon High School



Willow Canyon High School's arts and communications class had a student organized and run fashion show utilizing "wearable sculpture" or items of clothing made from recycled materials and everyday objects September 12. They designed, created, modeled and judged their own garments. Now the work continues as the students will learn various ways to edit the photos and videos taken to create finished narratives of their work. Students from various classes and several teachers took part in walking the red carpet with their own signature moves. Students in yearbook television media production contributed to the event with their own expertise.



Chelsea Bradley models a blue, gray and silver garment made of paper and aluminum foil.



Corinna Briseno walks down the runway in a black and white plastic dress.



Ashton Ranch Elementary School

The Ashton Ranch PTA Executive Board is working to increase parent involvement by hosting a series of family nights throughout the school year. Some events take place in cooperation with their community business partners, and some events draw parents to the school for special family nights. On August 27, Ashton Ranch hosted their first spirit night at Chick Fil-A along with a family game night at Barnes & Noble. Congratulations to Marci Edmondson's fifth grade class for having the most participation. Family movie night was held at the school September 16.

Drama Club is back at work with their kindergarten through fourth grade production of "An Unexpected Guest: A Goldilocks Tale" written by Nanette Burnett, parent volunteer and Site Council member. Advisor Alicia Vitacco announced the following cast members after recent auditions: Savannah Belich, Devin Heilman, Garrett Heilman, Demonica Johnson, Jeremy Costa, Sarah Costa, Sarah Ditchfield, Dallas Delay, Brianna Dilodolo, Maddie Corder, Haley Johnson, Kianna Smith, Jaxon Smith, Alexis Lovell, Natalie Taylor, Chloe Siresind, Samantha Wolek, Kat Forbes, Destini Buck, Tyler Mullins, Cody Mullins, Rainfall Schemelia and Grace Trembath. Rehearsals are underway for the performance taking place December 5 in the school auditorium. Drama Club will produce another show in the spring for aspiring actors in grades five through eight.



El Mirage Elementary School

El Mirage Elementary School will host a supplemental educational services vendor fair at 6 p.m., September 18, in the school's cafeteria. Various tutoring companies will be on hand for parents to meet and discuss their students' needs. Tutoring services for students will take place after school on school campus.



Thompson Ranch Elementary School

Seventh graders at Thompson Ranch Elementary School are studying division of integers in which the dividend is less than the divisor resulting in a quotient that is a decimal. They have been converting between percentages, decimals and fractions. They are currently conducting surveys to tally some seventh grade data on various topics such as favorite sneakers, brand of chips, cuisine, music, and pets among others. They recently completed a bulletin board at the main entrance of factor cacti during their study of prime factorization.

Congratulations to the newly elected student council officers: Ricky Rodriguez, president; Elyssa Fischer, vice president; Rohvanni Guilford, secretary; Thalia Zavala, treasurer; and Nicholas Jordan and Norma Aguina for promotions. When asked what he would like to see at Thompson Ranch, Ricky Rodriguez said, "more school spirit."



Kingswood Elementary School

Miranda Linzey's kindergarten students recently experimented to learn about two of the five senses: taste and smell.



Students used taste to try and figure out the "mystery foods."



Students also used their noses to identify the "mystery smells."

Several of the kindergarteners' grandparents came into classes and read with the students September 5.



Miranda Linzey's class recently had some special visitors read to students.

Western Peaks Elementary School

Math Champs classrooms for the week of September 12 include: Laura Sobelman, second grade; Cyndi Turner, third grade; Lisa Laessig, fourth grade; Verna Mortemore, fifth grade; Dean Desaulniers, sixth grade. The seventh graders were declared winners over the eighth graders this week.

Students in Lisa Laessig's fourth grade class began creating digital portfolios. Their electronic portfolios will be multi-media collections of their accomplishments in fourth grade. Throughout the year, students will collect and organize samples of their accomplishments in various formats including photo, video and audio. Students will use different technology tools and programs to create their portfolios.



Fourth grade students work on individual portfolios with laptop computers.

West Point Elementary School



Congratulations to the newly elected student council officers: Haley Fleck, president; MacKenzie Van Eck, vice president; Ryan Mejia, treasurer and April Cristiani, secretary. Class representatives include: Alyssa Luque, Trevor Parkhurst, Andrew Frazier, Leticia Villegas, Nicholas Van Doren, Sarah Sylvester, Rachel Perry, Kiley Ruble, Hector Guerrero, Jany Murrieta, Rubi Lopez and Shannon Sylvester.

The student council will create their first ever spirit store for the 2008-2009 school year. Items will include license plate covers, spirit beads, car magnets, stickers and many more West Point themed items. The student council will continue selling Squeeze smoothies after school and will be selling Sonic cards as well. All money raised is planned to assist with school dances, Read Across America events, field day and buying a school gift from the class of 2009. The council has planned on becoming an active part of the community and is currently discussing community service ideas. Some ideas include a food drive and a stuffed animal drive. The students have already suggested that the school do a sports award assembly at the end of the year, all student celebration assemblies be entirely run by the student council, and the school hold a couple spirit weeks in order to get the kids of West Point excited about being Wildcats. Council members will also take turns as the school's mascot at assemblies and sporting events to help build even more spirit.

The school welcomes the following staff members to the West Point community for the 2008-2009 school year:

- Tonia Mangum, kindergarden
- Lisa Frost, kindergarden
- Sheila Kurchnavy, kindergarten
- Carlos Perla first grade
- Jennie Freiwald, sixth grade language arts
- Carrie Liles, seventh grade math
- Kristina Fogelson, eighth grade language arts
- Patrick Marks, eighth grade science

West Point PTSA's fall fundraiser kicks off September 17; information has been sent home. The first restaurant night is set for September 18 at Babbo's at Reems and Bell. This is an all day event, so please consider having a meal out with the family while benefiting West Point Elementary School in the process.

Congratulations to the following students who will be representing our school for the upcoming softball and baseball seasons:

- Softball: Arianna Negron, Arizona McQuillin, Sierra Swart, Sabrina Marie Rogers, Toni Dominguez, Taylor Fish, Mallory Deutsch, Megan Halla, Delaney Meyers, Elizabeth Forbes, Breanna Tallman and Alex Gaitan.
- Baseball: Jordan Charbonneau, Christian Honer, Sheldon Mobley, Joseph Loque, Lowel Corwin, Nick Frazier, Zach Newman, Jeff Thresher, Austin Baker, Brandon Rodriguez, Tyler Downs, Devin Crews and Calvin Rowen.

Robin James' seventh grade students created posters and PowerPoint presentations telling their fellow classmates all about themselves as a way of getting to know each other during the first month of school. These projects helped the students practice their writing abilities as well as helping them to get better acquainted.

The seventh and eighth grade band students are invited to attend the second annual junior high band night at Valley Vista High School September 19. These students will play with the high school band students in the stands during the game. Junior high students get in free if they come to the pre-game rehearsal from 5 to 6:30 p.m., in the Valley Vista cafeteria. The students will then all march out to the stands together before playing various pep band tunes together throughout the game. The game begins at 7 p.m. Participating students will receive double practice time credit by director Karen Martin. Admission is \$4 for parents.

There are 20 students enrolled in the Wildcat Forensic Club. They have learned how to tell a counterfeit check from a real check, use basic household items to determine what an unknown powder is, and how to investigate a crime scene like real detectives.

In sixth grade science, the students have demonstrated how to use the scientific inquiry method to test a common superstition. For example, does walking under a ladder bring you bad luck? The students developed the question and hypothesis, designed the experiment, collected the data, built a graph of the data, and came to a conclusion.